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### **MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**WEST VIRGINIA– Commercial red meat production** during March 2005 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 15 percent from March 2004, but up 4 percent from February 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 642,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent from March 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 980 pounds, was up 62 pounds from a year ago.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 121,000 pounds live weight, down 17 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 244 pounds, was down 13 pounds from the previous year.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**UNITED STATES- Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in March 2004.

**Beef production**, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 5 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,238 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 13.3 million pounds, 6 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,900 head, down 11 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was 20 pounds above last year, at 328 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 1 percent below March 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 19.5 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 280,300 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

**January to March 2005 commercial red meat production** was 11.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

**March 2004** contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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